



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLAENL VON.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR, 1944.

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Councillor Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my ninth Annual Report regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Blaenavon for the year ended 31st December, 1944. The Report is prepared on similar lines as that for 1943, as indicated in Circular 10/44 Wales.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

There were no causes of sickness or invalidity requiring special comment. It is remarkable that after five years of War the health of the inhabitants has remained so good, and that the district has been free from any serious outbreak of infectious disease. Undoubtedly, the Colliery and Works canteens, the provision of school meals and schools milk has done much to assist in the maintenance of the good health of workers and school children during the difficult and troublesome period through which we have passed. The British Restaurant has also served a most useful purpose in supplying cheap, wholesome and nutritious food to the public at a time when the essential body building foods are not too plentiful.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water Supply.

No changes were brought about during the year to the District's water supply and conditions are similar to those stated in the last report.

The water supply of the area was generally satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Six bacteriological examinations of raw water were made during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

Only one small supply shows plumbo-solvent action; in this case the services to the houses supplied are of galvanized iron.

GENERAL INFORMATION - WATER SUPPLY.

Number of dwelling houses in the area.	2610.
Estimated population 1944.	9834.
Number of houses supplied from public water mains	
(i) direct to house	2538
(ii) by means of standpipes.	21.
(iii) from springs and streams.	51.
Approximate population supplied from public mains, etc.	
(i) direct to house.	9546.
(ii) by means of standpipes.	84.
(iii) by springs and streams.	204.

RAINFALL.

The district's rainfall for the year, which was recorded in the grounds of No. 2 Reservoir was as follows:-

January	5.04	July	4.49
February	0.63	August	3.79
March	0.34	September	4.92
April	2.50	October	8.66
May	1.02	November	9.29
June	2.16	December	4.29

TOTAL 47.13 inches.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No improvements were made during the year to the drainage and sewerage systems in the area, and the whole of the district's sewage is discharged untreated into the Avon Llywd.

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

The scavenging and cleansing of the district is carried out by direct labour, collections being made three times weekly. No change since my last report.

HOUSING.

Housing is still a serious and difficult problem in the area. A large number of houses are doubly and some trebly occupied. There is a big waiting list for Council houses, and the housing shortage in the district is really acute. It is true that efforts are being made to provide housing accommodation, but it will, I am afraid be a long time, even after building operations commence before the supply comes anywhere near the demand. At the present time any kind of accommodation, such as empty shops, redundant licensed premises etc., are being used, most of which have none of the amenities and little of the comfort which is necessary for a healthy and contented home life.

In addition to the shortage of houses, a large number of dwellings in the district have by reason of age, disrepair and inherent defects become unfit for habitation and should be demolished. Lack of proper attention during six years of War, when repair work to housing properties has been more or less at a standstill, has also left its mark on the better type houses. A number of serious cases of overcrowding exist, none of which can be abated until more housing accommodation is provided.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rats and mice destruction is now under the Control of the Ministry of Food, and during the year a campaign was commenced for dealing with this pest. The campaign was carried out under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector, in conjunction with the Official of the Rodent Department, Ministry of Food.

For the carrying out of the campaign it was recommended that there be what are known as sewer and surface treatments; the sewer treatments to embrace where possible, all the sewers in the area, while the surface treatments included houses, shop premises, stores and other buildings. Many difficulties were encountered owing to the complicated and obsolete sewerage system of the district and the lack of manholes. However, an effort was made and the first and second initial sewer treatments were carried out in July and August; with these two treatments it was estimated, using the Ministry of Food Formula, that 1,569 rats were destroyed. Surface treatments have also been carried out at certain places in the district, but until a full time Rodent Operative is employed it is not possible to carry out this work in accordance with the Ministry's requirements and recommendations.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are only five persons in the area producing milk for sale; two of these produce a very small quantity. Five persons

bring in milk from other areas, principally from the adjoining Rural District. The bulk of the milk retailed is pasteurised; this is brought in from the Pontypool Urban District, where there are two fairly large Pasteurising Plants.

The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops were visited periodically during the year by your Sanitary Inspector.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES & MEAT INSPECTION.

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the district since the rationing of food commenced. All meat consumed in the district with the exception of imported meat is killed at the Government Slaughterhouse, Brynmawr. The quality of meat supplied to the area has, on the whole, been satisfactory and there has been little cause for complaint. The butchers shops and other places where foods are prepared and sold have been visited and inspected at various times by the Sanitary Inspector throughout the year.

BILLETING OF EVACUEES.

The number of persons billeted in the area at the end of December as official evacuees was 283, made up of 165 unaccompanied children, 36 mothers, 58 accompanied children and 24 other adults.

Despite the fact that a large number of evacuees had been billeted in the district since June 1940, a further call was made in July of the year under review, asking the district to accept a further batch of unaccompanied children this time from the Reigate and Redhill Area, which was then being subjected to attack from the air by the V1.

Again the householders in the district rose to the occasion and provided homes for a large number of children, many of whom had been evacuated for the second and third time. Most of these evacuees returned early in December and during their stay they were treated remarkably well, being shown nothing but kindness. They all looked perfectly fit and well and certainly benefitted considerably from their stay with us.

Having had personal experience and seen for myself how the evacuee children were cared for and treated during their stay amongst us, I consider that the very best thanks are due to those persons in the district who so willingly took evacuees (children and adults) into their homes, and cared for them as though they were their own.

STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

<u>Area</u>	4,612 acres.
<u>Rateable Value</u>	£30,000
<u>Product of a Penny Rate.</u>	£121.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>
Legitimate	186	159	161	157	132
Illegitimate	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>136</u>
MALE	106	97	79	85	75
FEMALE	<u>89</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>61</u>
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>136</u>

BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

19.8 17.3 16.5 14.9 13.2

STILLBIRTHS.

Legitimate.	6	7	9	13	11
Illegitimate.	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

0.60 0.71 0.89 1.2 1.06

DEATHS.

	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
MALES	61	68	77	76	85
FEMALES	<u>42</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>74</u>
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>159</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

Blaenavon. 10.5 13.3 13.1 11.5 15.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

NUMBER OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
Boys	3	8	4	8	6
Girls.	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Number of Births.</u>	195	169	167	160	136

INFANT DEATH RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS REGISTERED.

<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
25.6	59.2	47.9	59.17	58.8

1911

1912

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1940

1941

1942

1943

1944

1945

1946

1947

1948

1949

PARTICULARS OF INFANT DEATHS DURING THE YEAR.

Under 1 week	4	1 to 3 months	0
1 to 2 weeks	0	3 to 6 months	0
2 to 3 weeks	0	6 to 9 months	0
3 to 4 weeks	<u>0</u>	9 to 12 months	<u>1</u>
Total under		Total under	
1 month.	<u>4</u>	12 months.	<u>1</u>

CANCER DEATHS.

Males.	8
Females.	<u>5</u>
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>13</u>

Causes of Death in the Blaenavon Urban District, 1944.

As Furnished by the Registrar General.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.
1.	Typhoid & para-typhoid Fevers.	0	0
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	0	0
3.	Scarlet Fever.	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough.	0	0
5.	Diphtheria.	0	0
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	3
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	1	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases.	0	0
9.	Influenza.	1	0
10.	Measles.	0	0
11.	Acute polio-myel & polio-enceph.	0	0
12.	Acute Inf. Enceph.	0	0
13.	Cancer of Buc.cav & oesoph(M) Uterus(F)	1	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum.	3	1
15.	Cancer of Breast.	0	0
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	4	2
17.	Diabetes.	0	0
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
19.	Heart Disease.	16	10
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system.	3	1
21.	Bronchitis.	8	0
22.	Pneumonia.	3	0
23.	Other respiratory diseases.	0	0
24.	Ulcer of stonach or duodenum.	0	0
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years.	0	0
26.	Appendicitis.	1	0
27.	Other digestive diseases.	1	2
28.	Nephritis.	1	4
29.	Puerperal & post abort: sepsis.	0	0
30.	Other maternal causes.	0	1
31.	Premature Birth.	2	2
32.	Con.Mal: birth inj: infant diseases.	0	0
33.	Suicide.	2	0
34.	Road Traffic Accidents.	2	0
35.	Other violent causes.	1	0
36.	All other causes.	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>TOTAL.</u>		<u>61</u>	<u>42</u>

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally. The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year ended December 31st 1944, will be seen from the appended table.

DIPHTHERIA.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Of these two were between 1 - 2 years and 1 between 5 - 10. Two cases were removed to hospital; there were no deaths from this cause.

SCARLET FEVER.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified; these were of a very mild type and were not removed to hospital.

PNEUMONIA.

Four cases of Pneumonia were notified; there was only 1 death from this disease.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

One case of Cerebro-spinal Fever was notified; this case occurred in a male child 3½ years and proved fatal.

MEASLES.

Four cases of Measles were notified; there were no deaths.

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The good results consequent upon immunization against diphtheria are shown in the number of cases notified during the past two years, i.e. eight cases with no deaths.

113 children were immunized during the year; while this figure is fairly good, it is not good enough and further efforts are to be made to convince the parents in the district that immunization is the only real safeguard against this dread disease.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>
Small Pox.	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	3	5	10	48	32
Scarlet Fever.	3	16	7	2	12
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	4	24	32	20	14
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1	1	4	6	4
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	1	-	3
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	7	6	9
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	3
Erysipelas.	1	1	7	2	-
Measles.	4	53	4	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	2	9	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	Cases Notified.															Age Groups.										Deaths		Age Groups.										Number Admitted to Hospitals.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
	Under 1 yr.					1 yr. to 4 yrs.					5 yrs. to 14 yrs.					15 yrs. to 44 yrs.					45 yrs. to 64 yrs.					Under 1 yr.		1 yr. to 4 yrs.		4 yrs. to 14 yrs.		14 yrs. to 44 yrs.		44 yrs. to 64 yrs.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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Tuberculosis is not to be included in this Summary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 25 cases of Pulmonary and 4 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified; these cases show an increase of 4 on the year 1943, when 21 cases of Pulmonary and 4 Non-pulmonary were notified.

8 deaths - 6 males and 3 females occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 male and 1 female from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING, 1944.

Age Period	New Cases.				Total.	Deaths.				Total.	
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary		non-pulmonary			
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Under 1 year.											
1 - 4 years.								1			1
5 - 10	4			2	6						1
15 - 25	1			1	7					1	1
25 - 35	2	5			10		1				1
35 - 45		7	1		2	2					3
45 - 55		2			1						
55 - 65		1			2		1				1
65 and over.					1						1
TOTAL.	8	17	1	3	29	3	3	1	1		8

Monthly Notifications of Tuberculosis.

Month.	Total.	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
January	10	3	6		1
February					
March	2		1	1	
April	1	1			
May	3		3		
June					
July	1		1		
August	2	1	1		
September	4	1	1		2
October	1		1		
November	2		2		
December	3	2	1		
TOTAL.	29	8	17	1	3

Comparison of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis during the past five years.

Year.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1940					
Notifications	12	10	4	1	27
Deaths	1	6	1	0	8
1941					
Notifications	14	14	1	0	29
Deaths	1	4	0	0	5
1942					
Notifications	4	6	2	2	14
Deaths	3	5	0	1	9
1943					
Notifications	8	13	3	1	25
Deaths	1	6	1	0	8
1944					
Notifications	8	17	1	3	29
Deaths	3	3	1	1	8

OCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR.

MALE CASES	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Schoolboys.	4		4
Factory Workers.	1	1	2
Haulage Drivers.	1		1
Soldiers.	1		1
Retired Miner.	1		1
TOTAL.	8	1	9

FEMALE CASES	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Schoolgirls.		2	2
Factory Workers	3		3
Housewives	9		9
School Teachers	1		1
Nurses'		1	1
Factory Welfare Nurse	1		1
Domestic Servants.	1		1
Shop Assistants	1		1
Milk Distribution.	1		1
TOTAL.	17	3	20

I am, Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Signed. J.J. CROWE.

Medical Officer of Health.

